

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we approach this holy table, we bring our prayers as a holy offering.

We come to you with glad thanksgiving:

For the good earth, your gift. For things great and small, beautiful and awesome.
For seen and unseen splendors.

For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for hopes and hardships, victories and failures until our life's end.

For families: for living together and eating together; for the messages that bind us together over great distances; and for joyful reunions that affirm family love, sealed in the love of Christ. For memories held forever sacred of those who are eternally with you.

For children and young people, for their brave play and startling frankness; their search for freedom and dangerous adventure; their sudden sympathies and solemn vows.

For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its rapid passing.

For your help, O God, in times of doubt and fear and sorrow; for healing our diseases or helping us to live triumphantly with them. We pray especially for _____.

We pray for our nation and for its leadership. We pray for the young men and women serving our country in harm's way.

We pray for the church into which we have been called by your grace. For the Good News we receive in Word and Sacrament. For our life together in the Lord. For this church family here gathered, that we may be constant in faith, courageous in witness, and joyful in service; and so glorify you.

(For ourselves and our loved ones, for whose joys we praise you, and whose needs we ask you to supply, for whose comfort we pray; and so we name them before you:

And chiefly we are bound to praise you for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope in him of life eternal. Even he who taught us when we pray to say: "**Our Father . . .**"